

# Foresters Bulletin



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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION

**MAINE FOREST  
SERVICE**

FOREST POLICY AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

We help you make informed decisions about  
Maine forests



## First - A Thank You

In 2004 MFS's new landowner cost-share program, "WoodsWISE", was introduced. Like previous programs, WoodsWISE relies on private consulting foresters to write plans and help landowners implement cost-share practices.

This past year many foresters have stepped up and started working under the new program as "Stewardship Foresters". A special thanks to all of you who make these programs run by providing quality forestry services to Maine landowners!

## WoodsWISE Forest Management Plans

The new WoodsWISE program includes new standards for Forest Management Plans that are cost-shared. In the last several months many consultants have submitted plans written to the new standard.

If you are writing WoodsWISE plans, here are few reminders about particular items that have been overlooked in a few cases, and that may be helpful in getting these new plans approved without delay.

In general:

1. Above all – be sure to read the entire standard for Forest Management Plans (Section III in the manual). There is a checklist at the end, but the standard itself identifies what specific information is needed for each heading. Taking a look at the standard will save you – and your clients – time in getting the plan approved by your MFS District Forester.
2. If you have questions, please ask – and consider asking before you submit a final plan to the landowner. District Foresters are happy to answer questions, and usually can review a draft plan to let you know if any information is missing.
3. All of the Required information must be in the plan. There are some items that are required under certain circumstances, depending on the landowner's stated objectives.
4. If a required item does not apply or does not appear on the property, the plan should state that.
5. A Periodic Update of a Forest Management Plan must meet all requirements of a new plan. That means that when you submit a Periodic Update, it must contain all of the information that is required in a New Plan. Some of that information can be taken from an existing plan (if it is still current), but referencing a previous plan alone is not adequate – the required information must appear in the Periodic Update. The Periodic Update must also include a summary of accomplishments under the previous plan.

Submitting a Claim for Payment:

6. All required forms for applying or submitting a Forest Management Plan Claim for Payment are on the MFS website, at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpm/wwwi/wwwi.htm> - under the heading "Forest Management Planning". (There are also forms for submitting a Project Claim for Payment – these are separate forms.)

Notes on specific plan information:

7. The Planning Period must be identified.
8. All submitted maps must have the required basic information. That includes landowner name, town map and lot number, north arrow, etc.
9. Plans must include information obtained from both the Maine Natural Areas Program, and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The plan should affirm that these agencies were contacted, and provide the information received to the landowner within the plan and/or as an appendix. The Natural Areas program information will include information from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, so a separate inquiry of IFW is not required. Contact information for MHPC and MNAP is in the WoodsWISE Manual.
10. A "Field methods statement" is required that describes the fieldwork done to prepare the plan.
11. In the section on "Legal Obligations", all plans should summarize basic laws affecting forestry (these will generally include, at a minimum, the Forest Practices Act, the Protection and Improvement of Waters Act, the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, the Natural Resource Protection Act, and the Shoreland Zoning Act).

Many foresters have been preparing good forest management plans for years. If you are writing cost-shared plans under the WoodsWISE program, please take an extra moment to make sure you meet the program standards. Thank you.



Maine Forest Service  
Be Woods Wise  
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SOURCES

*Reminder: All current forms  
for WoodsWISE cost-sharing  
are available on the MFS  
website:  
[www.maineforestservice.org](http://www.maineforestservice.org)*

FORESTER  
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MAINE’S ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE

A new publication by Maine’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, this softcover, fully illustrated book has a comprehensive description of all 49 Maine animals on state and federal endangered species. Available for \$13.50 from: Maine DIFW, Attn: Information Center, 284 State Street, 41 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0041; or from: [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com) or by calling 207-287-8000.

BE WOODS WISE BULLETIN

Maine Forest Service launched a new, quarterly newsletter for small forest landowners this winter, the Be Woods Wise Bulletin. The goal is to provide landowners with basic sources of forest management information, updates, events, etc. in a brief format. The winter edition focused on WoodsWISE cost-sharing, and highlighted SWOAM as an organization representing many small forest landowners.

2005 WOODSWISE TRAINING FOR FORESTERS

This year’s training sessions for Foresters interested in providing cost-shared services to landowners through the WoodsWISE program will be held in April. Foresters who wish to remain or become eligible to deliver WoodsWISE cost-sharing (plans and/or projects) must attend one of these sessions. Workshops have been set for the following dates/locations:

April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sanford Fish and Game Club
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lewiston NRCS Office (257 Goddard Road)
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis Regional YMCA (Park Street)
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ellsworth City Hall (auditorium)
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Augusta (MFS Bolton Hill facility, Route 3)
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Presque Isle (Fairgrounds forestry building)

All workshops will run from 8 – 12. Lunch will not be provided. MFS personnel will be available until approximately 2 p.m. if needed to answer additional questions. The program manual is at <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpm/wwi/wwi.htm>

Please register with Judy Tyler or Morten Moesswilde at the Augusta MFS office (287-2791 or 800-367-0223) to let us know which workshop you will be attending. We need to limit the number of attendees to 35 at each session.

WOODSWISE PROJECT APPLICATION PERIOD – May 2005

The next application period for landowners interested in applying for cost-sharing WoodsWISE Projects (including Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Health, Wildlife, and Water quality practices) will be in May, 2005. More details will be forthcoming. (Note that applications for Forest Management Plans are accepted continuously.)

USDA-NRCS TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING SESSION

NRCS will host a training session for individuals and companies that are interested in understanding what is involved with becoming a Technical Service Provider (TSP), and for existing TSPs who want additional training on TSP issues. This training will focus on the TSP process, not on the use of the resources conservation tools and assessments in the conservation planning process. The session will be held from 10 to 3 on Thursday, March 17, at the University of Maine’s Hutchinson Center on Route 3 in Belfast. For more information or to register (by 2/25), contact Debbie Gray at 207-990-9552 or email [debbie.gray@me.usda.gov](mailto:debbie.gray@me.usda.gov).

OTHER EVENTS

A list of Maine Forest Service, SWOAM, and other events is at: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/fpm/calendar/calendar.shtml>. *If you know of an event for the calendar, please contact MFS.*

**BE WOODS WISE**  
informs, involves, assists, and provides incentives for Maine landowners managing their woodlands through application of forest stewardship principles.

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